

PORT CHESTER, N.Y.
ITEM

E. 15,378

FEB 2 1966

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

In Defense Of The Military Mind, As Opposed To The Political Mind

To the Editor:

In your Saturday edition, columnist Clayton Fritchey's "open letter" to the President dressing down the military advisers in the Bay of Pigs, Korea, etc., is so grossly one-sided and unfair that one must challenge it and raise a question or two.

To begin with, if President Kennedy was surrounded by such inept advisers (not only military, but State Department and CIA) then — if he relied on information from incompetents — it raises considerable doubt about his own competency. Mr. Kennedy also mistrusted doctors, yet these able physicians saved his life during a serious back operation!

As for General MacArthur advising President Truman during their Wake Island meeting that if the "Chinese were to enter Korea they would face certain disaster," I, for one, find this particular choice of words (Mr. Fritchey's???) being uttered by MacArthur difficult to believe.

Perhaps General MacArthur did want to win the Korean war (he was assigned by Truman to do so!) and he had reason to believe he could defeat China (remember, this was the China of fifteen years ago, not 1966). It was before Washington tied his hands behind his back and forbade him to bomb the Chinese supply depots and communications lines that became known as sanctuaries.

Mr. Truman and his advisers in Washington may have been right about not escalating the Korean war, but they were in "comfy" and cozy Washington, not some 7,000 miles away in the front lines where General MacArthur had the responsibility of thousands and thousands of men.

That the Chinese commanding officer had the incredible

boldness to permit his army of 500,000 men to cross bridges (certainly not of the quality of American and European expansions) that could easily be bombed out by even obsolete aircraft, if necessary, seemed perilous because they would have been completely cut off from their lines of supply! Five hundred thousand men get very hungry, the enormous effort it would take to feed them could easily be destroyed. I am inclined to believe MacArthur when he said someone must have "leaked" out the information that the American forces would not be permitted to bomb to within a five-mile approach of the Yalu River. Fantastic, but a matter of fact! MacArthur, consistently and intensely loyal soldier, could no longer tolerate the back-door politics and spoke out his mind. Result: dismissal.

Then, too, it must be noted that columnist Fritchey merely pointed out a military operation or two that did not run entirely in our favor. He completely overlooks World Wars I and II.

Our military advisers in these two vast conflicts were the architects who brought about the unconditional surrender of the most powerful enemies in the history of war.

Incidentally, a fellow named MacArthur was the commanding general of the Pacific theater of operations. He was also the man responsible for restoring the confidence of the defeated Japanese and raising them to the greatest period of economy of their history as their military governor.

In conclusion, it must be remembered that 99 per cent of wars in the history of man were started by politicians, not military advisers.

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